

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2699

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USELM LIVE OAK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 14624

LIVE OAK (CONFIDENTIAL) US EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,

PGOV, EAIR, US, WB, GW

SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT LANDS AT

TEMPELHOF

REFS: (A) USBER 1827; (B) STATE 209779

SUMMARY: AFTER TRIPARTITE AND BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS
OF HOW CESSNA COULD BEST BE REMOVED FROM BERLIN TO
FRG, TRIPARTITE CONSENSUS REACHED THAT DISMANTLING AND
SHIPMENT THE BEST SOLUTION. FRG BONN GROUP REP
APPEARS PERSONALLY TO AGREE AND IS REPORTING THE
TRIPARTITE POSITION. GIVEN THE POSSIBILITIES FOR
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TROUBLE WHICH LAND TRANSPORT OF THE CESSNA ACROSS

THE GDR MIGHT BRING, WE BELIEVE THE CESSNA SHOULD BE SHIPPED BY AIR. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER WE HAD LAID APPROPRIATE GROUNDWORK IN SEPTEMBER 5 TRIPARTITE MEETING, UK REP (CHAIRMAN) RAISED SUBJECT OF CESSNA TEMPELHOF LANDING AT BONN GROUP MEETING SAME DAY.

2. BONN GROUP DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS OPTIONS RESULTED IN TRIPARTITE STATEMENT TO FRG REP THAT DISMANTLING AND SHIPMENT TO FRG WAS LEAST TROUBLE-FRAUGHT SOLUTION TO DISPOSITION PROBLEM. FRG REP NOTED THAT BONN WAS LABORING UNDER MISAPPREHENSION THAT LUFTWAFFE STAR-FIGHTER IN EARLIER CASE HAD BEEN FLOWN OUT BY FRENCH AIR FORCE PILOT, AND INDICATED THIS QUOTE PRECEDENT UNQUOTE HAD HAD SOME ATTRACTION FOR GERMAN OFFICIALS. FRG REP ADDED HE NOW UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS OPTION, AND THE OTHERS DISCARDED BY THE ALLIES, WERE INDEED QUITE THEORETICAL. IN VIEW OF THE PROBABLE VERY HIGH COST OF AIR SHIPMENT, FRG REP THOUGHT LAND TRANSPORT WOULD BE PREFERABLE. IT ALSO SEEMED TO HIM THAT SURFACE TRANSPORT WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM VIS A VIS THE GDR AND SOVIETS, BUT THE QUESTION OF SHIPPING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UNDER THE TTA WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY LOOKED INTO.

3. FRG REP ALSO INFORMED OTHERS THAT MEMBER OF BONN'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN HAD BEEN CALLED TO GDR FON MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 2 TO RECEIVE ORAL PROTEST. READING FROM A REPORT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, HE SAID THE GDR HAD COMPLAINED AS FOLLOWS (NOTE: THE GDR APPARENTLY DID NOT HAND OVER NON-PAPER AND TEXT BELOW IS FROM NOTES TAKEN BY FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION MEMBER; FRG REPS HERE SUSPECT THAT CHARACTERIZATION "BERLIN (WEST)" IS NOT TERM USED BY GDR BUT WAS ALTERED BY FRG REPS IN EAST BERLIN): BEGIN TEXT:

ON AUGUST 30, 1975, A SPORT AIRCRAFT TYPE CESSNA 172, EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST MODERN NAVIGATIONAL AIDES AND IN SPITE OF FAVORABLE FLYING CONDITIONS
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FLEW OUT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, PENETRATED IN A PROVOCATIVE WAY THE AIRSPACE OF THE GDR ,AND LANDED IN BERLIN (WEST) AT TEMPE. THIS WAS A FAR-REACHING VIOLATION OF GDR AIRSPACE AND AN ILLEGAL USE OF THE AIR ROUTES LUFTVERBINDUNGS-WEGE) BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND BERLIN (WEST) ONLY RESPONSIBLE ACTION BY THE AIR SAFETY ORGANS OF THE GDR IS TO BE THANKED FOR THE FACT THAT THIS

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USELM LIVE OAK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 14624

VIOLATION OF AIR SPACE DID NOT HAVE SERIOUS
CONSEQUENCES. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE GDR
PROTESTS IN A MOST EMPHATIC WAY AGAINST THIS
QUOTE PROVOCATIVE AND CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL
LAW VIOLATION OF THE AIR SPACE OF THE GDR END
QUOTE AND EXPECTS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL
TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO EXCLUDE IN THE
FUTURE EVENTS OF THIS KIND. END TEXT. (NOTE: THE
INNER QUOTE JUST ABOVE IS EXACTLY WHAT GDR FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID.)

4. FRG BONN GROUP REP SAID THE FRG HAD REJECTED THE GDR
PROTEST, POINTING OUT THE FACTS OF THE PILOT'S
PROBLEMS AND NOTING THAT THE FRG TAKES CARE TO

PUBLICIZE WIDELY IN APPROPRIATE WAYS THE RESTRICTIONS
REGARDING GDR AIR SPACE.
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5. FRG REP SAID HE WOULD REPORT ALLIED AGREEMENT THAT
DISMANTLING AND TRANSPORT WAS DESIRED
SOLUTION TO CESSNA DISPOSITION PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: FROM PERFORMANCE OF FRG BONN GROUP REP,
IT IS CLEAR THAT BONN WOULD LIKE TO FIND WAY OUT OF
THIS DILEMMA OTHER THAN DISMANTLING AND SHIPPING AIR-
CRAFT TO FRG. THE GERMANS, TOO, HOWEVER, ARE
BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE RISKS OF OTHER
POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES AND SEEM TO BE INCHING THEIR WAY
TO THE SAME CONCLUSION AS THE ALLIES. THE GDR
COMPLAINT, WE BELIEVE, HAS HAD A SOBERING EFFECT ON
BONN'S THINKING THAT AN INNER GERMAN RESOLUTION MIGHT
BE AN ATTRACTIVE WAY OUT. ON BALANCE, WE ARE HOPEFUL
THAT THE FRG WILL RECOGNIZE ADVANTAGES TO DISMANTLING
AND SHIPPING. FONOFF REP IN BONN GROUP APPEARED
PERSUADED, BUT OTHER MINISTRIES ALSO NEED TO AGREE.

7. IF GDR WISHES TO PRESS THE MATTER, LAND TRANSPORT
ACROSS THE GDR EVEN UNDER TTA PROVISIONS COULD RESULT
IN PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE GDR COULD CONTENT THAT
AIRCRAFT WAS MATERIAL EVIDENCE IN LEGAL INVESTIGATION,
THUS PURPORTING TO JUSTIFY ANY SEIZURE UNDER ARTICLE
16 OF TTA.

8. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO SHIP DISMANTLED
CESSNA OUT OF BERLIN VIA ALLIED MILITARY SURFACE CARRIER,
PERHAPS ON ONE OF THE SUPPLY TRAINS TO FRG. WHILE THIS
WOULD SEEM TO RUN AFOUL OF TRADITIONAL POLICY AGAINST
SHIPPING GERMAN CIVILIAN GOODS UNDER ALLIED AEGIS,
SUCH TRANSPORT COULD NOT BE SEEN AS PRECEDENT FOR
REGULAR GERMAN SHIPMENTS BECAUSE THE CESSNA HAS BEEN
CONFISCATED AND REMAINS IN US CUSTODY.

9. AS INDICATED BY THE SOVIET PROTEST DELIVERED TO
CHIEF, USMLM BY CHIEF OF STAFF, GSFG, ON SEPTEMBER 5
(SEE REF A) THE USSR DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INCLINED TO
LET THIS MATTER DROP. WE CONCLUDE THAT LAND TRANSPORT,
BY EITHER CIVILIAN OR MILITARY FACILITIES, WOULD PRESENT
TOO MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR TROUBLE AND SHOULD BE AVOIDED
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IF IT IS DONE, AS INTENDED ,WITHOUT SOVIET/GDR CONCUR-
RENCE.

10. ON BALANCE, AND IN SPITE OF HIGHER COSTS, WE ARE
INCLINED TOWARD SHIPPING OF CESSNA BY AIR AND, IF

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 14624

NECESSARY, PAYINGFOR IT FROM THE OCCUPATION BUDGET
UNTIL WE SETTLE AS WE CHOOSE WITH THE PILOT. EVEN THEN,
OF COURSE, WE STILL MUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO PRESENT THIS
TO THE SOVIETS OR, IF WE DECIDE NOT TO REPLY DIRECTLY,
HOW TO DEFUSE POSSIBLE SOVIET IRRITATION AT HAVING THE
AIRCRAFT SPIRITED AWAY. A TRIPARTITE APPROACH AT A
SUITABLE LEVEL WOULD SEEM MOST DESIRABLE, AS THE ONLY
EARLIER CONTACT WITH THE SOVIETS WAS AT A TECHNICAL

LEVEL IN THE BASIC END COMMENT.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S AND MISSION'S VIEWS
AS TO SHIPMENT OF CESSNA VIA ALLIED MILITARY CARRIER
(EITHER LAND OR AIR). IT WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED IF
MISSION WOULD LOOK INTO QUESTION OF REQUIRED AK PERMITS
FOR SHIPPING AIRCRAFT (OR PARTS) FROM BERLIN. IT MAY
ALSO BE A GOOD IDEA FOR MISSION TO CHECK WHAT TYPE OF
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AIRCRAFT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO TRANSPORT THE CESSNA, AND
THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH AIRCRAFT.
HILLENBRAND

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